

4-25-01  
*Its the Pitts...*

# A Newcomer's Guide to the Country

BY LEE PITTS  
Guest Commentary



It seems like more and more people are moving to the country and immediately trying to transform it into the big city they couldn't wait to escape.

I should warn these modern day pioneers, there are big differences between "here" and "there." Here are a few tips to make the move easier for the invading hordes.

Don't ever try to pet the nice doggy in the back of the pick-up truck, don't feed the deer, or complain about any rain that might fall from the sky. Do not write letters to the editor of the weekly newspaper saying what a "hick town" your new home is. While it may be all right for us to call it that, a newcomer never should. (A newcomer is considered anyone who was not born here.)

Also, in these parts the word's, "It's good cow country," are considered highly complimentary.

If a 4-H'er outside the Post Office asks if you want to buy a raffle ticket you'd better do so.

Word travels fast in these parts and there are no secrets. Within two weeks we'll all know what kind of liquor you drink and how much you smoke from

the clerk at the store. By the way, this information is not considered "rumor" or "gossip."

There is an entirely different pecking order in the country where mountain lion trappers are more highly valued than lawyers. And there's a greater need for them too.

Don't make jokes about bankers either, because the local one is probably a respected member of the community.

If someone does something nice for you, like pull you out of a ditch or bring your lost dog back home, DO NOT offer them money. It's an insult. Baking them a nice pie, however, is acceptable. But only if you can cook.

A few words about driving in our neck of the woods: If the driver of an oncoming vehicle waves two fingers at you above the steering wheel he's not flashing you the peace symbol. The driver is just being friendly. Granted, this may be an entirely new experience for you but learn to expect it.

For example, when you stop at a four way stop and another driver waves you through even though you, technically, were not here first, it is perfectly all right to accept this kindness. Although you should acknowledge the courtesy in some manner, like flashing the peace sign.

You'll also make the appalling discovery hat out here in the hinterlands people actually observe red lights and road warnings most of the time. That's because the caution signs may indicate an oncoming coal train or a huge combine in the road ahead.

Leave your consumptive snobbery back in the city.

We don't care about the year and model of the car you drive. Besides, our dirty, dusty roads play heck with black foreign cars, ladies lathered in greasy make-up and guys who plaster their hair with gel or mousse. The only moose out here are the ones that may run out in front of your car at night when you are least expecting it.

When dining out don't ask for anything on the half-shell or order an arugula salad with brie dressing. We'll all be embarrassed for you if you eat your chicken with a knife and fork, or your chicken fried steak with your fingers.

We do not consider asking for a wine steward a sign of sophistication, especially if you're at the Dairy Queen. We don't have a sushi bar but the grocery store does sell bait, along with calf replacer, horseshoe nails and mineral blocks.

We speak a different dialect too. In our world the FFA has nothing to do with Federal Aviation or the NRA with nurses.

And there are a few things you should NEVER say or we'll know you're not a native species. Don't ask for the recipe for a cow pie or where you can buy a sweater for your Dachshund. Never ask, "What's that smell?" "Do you have a local Sierra Club Chapter?" or "Isn't that coyote cute?"

If you want to get along never say "No" to a potluck or "Yes" if a neighbor offers zucchini. Other than that, you're on your own.

Good luck... you'll need it.



R. R. Green  
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Heber City, UT 84032

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HUSBAND: Thomas SLEIGHT (AFN:1F10-L4)  
WIFE: Marianne REYNOLDS (AFN:1GH2-7KJ)

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BORN: 25 Sep 1833  
BORN: <1836>

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OTHER MARRIAGES

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LDS ORDINANCE DATA

HUSBAND: Thomas SLEIGHT (AFN:1F10-L4)

SPOUSE: Marianna REYNOLDS (AFN:B95X-B2)  
MAR.: 13 Jul 1857 PLACE:

SS:

SPOUSE: Mary Matilda WIXOM (AFN:1GB4-MT)  
MAR.: 13 Jul 1867 PLACE: Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, UT

SS: 13 Jul 1867

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Codes: AFN=Ancestral File Number B=Baptized E=Endowed SS=Sealed to Spouse SP=Sealed to Parents

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13 July 2006

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Bless  
America

Mr. R. R. Green  
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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Cheryl Boyter'.

Cheryl Boyter  
Area Manager  
AAA Utah

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Scott Tomlin'.

Scott Tomlin  
Area Manager  
AAA Utah